

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a configuration comprising a
2 plurality of components each having an associated context ~~and context state~~, said associated
3 context ~~state~~ equal to one or more of a plurality of values, said method comprising:
4 caching a current first context state in response to a requirement for the installation of a
5 first component, wherein the first component is one of the plurality of
6 components;
7 changing the current state of the context to ~~the associated state of the~~ a context state
8 corresponding to the context associated with the first component if they the
9 current first context state and the context associated with the first component are
10 not equal;
11 installing the first component as part of the configuration; ~~and~~
12 upon installing the first component as part of the configuration, changing a first state of
13 the configuration to a second configuration state that includes the first component;
14 and
15 restoring ~~[[a]] the cached~~ first context state ~~of the context~~ upon completing installation of
16 the first component without changing the second configuration state.

1 2. (Currently Amended) A server adapted to generate a configuration, the server
2 comprising:
3 a cache configured to hold a current first context state in response to a requirement for the
4 installation of a first component, wherein the first component is one of a plurality
5 of components each having an associated context ~~and context state~~, said
6 associated context state equal to one or more of a plurality of values;
7 a change module adapted to change the current first context state to ~~the associated state of~~
8 ~~the~~ a context state corresponding to the context associated with the first

component if ~~they~~ the current first context state and the context associated with
the first component are not equal;

an install module adapted to install the first component as part of the configuration;

a module to change a first state of the configuration to a second configuration state that
includes the first component upon installation of the first component as part of the
configuration; and

a restore module adapted to restore ~~[[a]] the~~ cached first context state of the context upon
a completion of an installation of the first component without changing the second
configuration state.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration
comprises the configuration of a product ~~selected from~~ is a member of the group ~~comprising~~
consisting of: automobiles, computer hardware, computer software, professional service
products, financial service products, medical products, pharmaceutical products, and
construction products.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the context associated with
[[a]] the first component represents a limited set of additional components that are compatible as
additions to a particular configuration with the ~~associated~~ first component.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the context associated with
[[a]] the first component represents a class of components that are compatible as additions to a
particular configuration with the ~~associated~~ first component.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein each component is
associated with a context attribute that allows identification of the context of each component,
the method further comprising:

processing the context attribute associated with the installed first component to determine
the context associated with the installed first component.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ each associated context
2 is ~~selected from a member of the group comprising~~ consisting of: a product line comprising
3 compatible components, a current inventory, and a country of purchase.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 as a result of installing the first component as part of the configuration, installing one or
3 more additional components, wherein each additional installed component has an
4 associated context; and
5 ~~nesting~~ caching nested context states associated with each context of each additional
6 installed component; and
7 restoring a cached state of the context upon completing installation of the component
8 further comprises restoring the cached an immediately preceding cached nested
9 context state of the context upon completing installation of each additional
10 component by restoring the nested context states in reverse.

1 10. (Canceled).

1 11. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 2 wherein the configuration comprises
2 the configuration of a product ~~selected from~~ is a member of the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of:
3 automobiles, computer hardware, computer software, professional service products, financial
4 service products, medical products, pharmaceutical products, and construction products.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 2 wherein the context associated with
2 ~~[[a]]~~ the first component represents a limited set of additional components that are compatible as
3 additions to a particular configuration with the ~~associated~~ first component.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 2 wherein the context associated with
2 ~~[[a]]~~ the first component represents a class of components that are compatible as additions to a
3 particular configuration with the ~~associated~~ first component.

1 14. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 13 wherein each component is
2 associated with a context attribute that allows identification of the context of each component
3 and the change module is further adapted to process the context attribute associated with the
4 installed first component to determine the context associated with the installed first component.

1 15. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 2 wherein ~~the~~ each associated context
2 is ~~selected from a member of~~ the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of: a product line comprising
3 compatible components, a current inventory, and a country of purchase.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The server of claim 2 wherein:
2 the cache is also configured to hold nested context states in response to a requirement for
3 the installation of additional components due to the previous installation of other
4 components and each additional installed component has an associated context;
5 and
6 the restore module is further adapted to restore the cached state of the context upon
7 completing installation of each additional component by restoring the nested
8 context states in reverse.

1 17. (Cancelled.)

1 18. (Cancelled.)

1 19. (Cancelled.)

1 20. (Cancelled.)

1 21. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein if the first context state and the context
2 associated with the first component are equal, the method further comprises:
3 retaining the first context state as the current context state;

installing the first component as part of the configuration while retaining the first context state as the current context state; and
upon installing the first component as part of the configuration, changing a first state of the configuration to a second configuration state that includes the first component while retaining the first context state as the current context state.

22. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

caching the current first context state in response to a requirement for the installation of a second component, wherein the second component is one of the plurality of components;

changing the current state of the context to a context state corresponding to the context associated with the second component if the current first context state and the context associated with the second component are not equal;

installing the second component as part of the configuration;

upon installing the second component as part of the configuration, changing the second configuration state to a third configuration state that includes the second component; and

restoring the cached first context state upon completing installation of the second component without changing the third configuration state.

23. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein changing a state of the configuration to a second configuration state that includes the first component further comprises:

including one or more first additional components in the second configuration state if installing the first component as part of the configuration requires including the one or more first additional components; and

removing one or more second additional components in the second configuration state if installing the first component of the configuration requires removing the one or more second additional components.

1 24. (New) The server of claim 2 wherein if the first context state and the context
2 associated with the first component are equal, the server is configured with at least one additional
3 module to:

4 retain the first context state as the current context state;

5 install the first component as part of the configuration while retaining the first context
6 state as the current context state; and

7 upon installation of the first component as part of the configuration, change a state of the
8 configuration to a second configuration state that includes the first component
9 while retaining the first context state as the current context state.

1 25. (New) The server of claim 2 wherein the server is configured with at least one
2 additional module to:

3 cache the current first context state in response to a requirement for the installation of a
4 second component, wherein the second component is one of the plurality of
5 components;

6 change the current state of the context to a context state corresponding to the context
7 associated with the second component if the current first context state and the
8 context associated with the second component are not equal;

9 install the second component as part of the configuration;

10 upon installation of the second component as part of the configuration, change the second
11 state to a third configuration state that includes the second component; and

12 restore the cached first context state upon completing installation of the second
13 component without changing the third configuration state.

1 26. (New) The server of claim 2 wherein:

2 the second configuration state also includes one or more first additional components in
3 the first configuration state if installation of the first component as part of the
4 configuration requires including the one or more first additional components; and

5 the second configuration state excludes one or more second additional components in the
6 first configuration state if installation of the first component of the configuration
7 requires removing the one or more second additional components.

1 27. (New) An apparatus for generating a configuration comprising a plurality of
2 components each having an associated context, said associated context equal to one or more of a
3 plurality of values, said method comprising:

4 means for caching a current first context state in response to a requirement for the
5 installation of a first component, wherein the first component is one of the
6 plurality of components;

7 means for changing the current state of the context to a context state corresponding to the
8 context associated with the first component if the current first context state and
9 the context associated with the first component are not equal;

10 means for installing the first component as part of the configuration;

11 means for changing a first state of the configuration to a second configuration state that
12 includes the first component upon installing the first component as part of the
13 configuration; and

14 means for restoring the cached first context state upon completing installation of the first
15 component without changing the second configuration state.